

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

REPORT OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PEACE
SOCIETY OF JAPAN, HELD IN THE FOREIGN BOARD OF TRADE
ROOMS AT YOKOHAMA ON MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1911.

Presented by Mr. JONES.

APRIL 17, 1911.—Ordered to be printed.

AMERICAN CITIZENS AND THE PEACE MOVEMENT.

FORMATION OF PEACE SOCIETY AT AN INFLUENTIAL MEETING IN YOKOHAMA.

[Speeches by Mr. D. H. BLAKE, Ambassador O'BRIEN, Mr. J. R. KENNEDY, Rev. T. ROSE-
BERRY GOOD, and Mr. H. E. COLE.]

JANUARY 31.

A large and influential meeting of American citizens resident in Japan was held at the offices of the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade last evening for the purpose of forming a society with the object of combating, as far as possible, the rumors prevalent from time to time of ill feeling between the United States and Japan, of promoting friendly relations between the two powers, and thus furthering the cause of international peace. This general meeting of American citizens was called, after several months of careful investigation and correspondence, by a promoting committee of 20 Americans residing in the important centers of Japan and representing the professional, missionary, and business groups. The meeting was thoroughly representative, including, in addition to His Excellency Thomas O'Brien, America's ambassador in Tokyo, representatives of the diplomatic and consular bodies, representatives of the church, of missionary and educational institutions, and the leaders of American business houses, as well as many ladies. Mr. D. H. Blake, one of the leading business men in Yokohama, presided, and in a telling speech advocated the necessity of American citizens taking steps to organize for the purpose of combating the attempts made from time to time

5X1428
J. J. A. U.

to disturb the friendly relations between Japan and the United States, and thus promoting international peace. Speeches were also delivered by the American ambassador, His Excellency Thomas J. O'Brien; Mr. J. Russell Kennedy, representing the organizing committee; Rev. T. Roseberry Good, B. A., pastor of Union Church, Yokohama; and Mr. H. E. Cole, as representing the business section of the community.

The proposed constitution was adopted, with a slight amendment, namely, the change of the name of the society to "The American Peace Society of Japan," and the following officers for the ensuing year were unanimously elected: President, Mr. D. H. Blake; vice presidents, Mr. E. W. Frazar, Prof. H. S. Terry, Mr. B. C. Howard, Rev. T. Roseberry Good, and Dr. D. C. Greene; honorable secretary, Mr. Gilbert Bowles; honorable treasurer, Mr. J. R. Geary. The president, treasurer, and secretary, with five persons chosen by them, will constitute an executive committee. The society opened with a charter membership of 180 from all parts of Japan and Chosen.

Resolutions were adopted, on the motion of Mr. H. E. Cole, expressing the opinion that the people of Japan have at all times entertained the most friendly and cordial sentiments toward the Government and people of the United States, and that there is not to be found in the Japanese Empire any wish or thought other than to maintain the most friendly relations, and pledging the society to do its best to give publicity to the sentiments expressed.

This concluded the business, and after a large number of ladies and gentlemen had been enrolled as members a very successful meeting came to an end.

The meeting was called to order shortly after 5 o'clock by Mr. D. H. Blake, with whom was his excellency the American ambassador. There were also present Rev. G. F. Draper, D. D., and Mrs. Draper; Rev. H. W. Schwartz, M. D., and Mrs. Schwartz; Rev. and Mrs. H. Loomis; Paymaster Holt, United States Navy, and Mrs. Holt; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Goold; Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Steiner; Mrs. D. H. Blake; Mrs. Loomis; Mrs. Van Petten; Miss Crosby; Miss Cummings; Miss A. G. Lewis; Miss Edith Sharpless; Miss Slate; Miss Woodward; Miss M. K. Seeds; Miss A. F. Thompson; Rev. T. Roseberry Good, B. A., pastor of Yokohama Union Church; Rev. E. S. Booth, M. A.; Rev. J. H. Ballagh, D. D.; Rev. D. Greene, D. D.; Rev. D. S. Spencer, D. D.; Rev. J. Soper, D. D.; Rev. Clay McCauley; Rev. W. B. Parshley; Dr. John Ballagh; Mr. E. G. Babbitt, United States vice consul general at Yokohama; Mr. C. J. Arnell, secretary in the United States embassy; Prof. Terry; Prof. A. Wood; Messrs. F. W. Horne, H. E. Cole, S. Isaacs, B. C. Howard, J. Russell Kennedy, J. S. Happer, D. MacKenzie, F. S. Booth, J. H. Allison, Capt. Swain, Paul Messer, W. R. Devin, R. J. Archer, W. R. Matteson, E. C. Jones, J. M. D. Gardiner, H. M. Nock, L. A. Wilson, L. N. Rider, R. D. Read, F. I. Blake, G. S. Summerlin, R. F. Moss, P. Whiteing, R. J. Archer, A. T. Woodward, B. W. Fleisher, J. R. Geary, F. H. Tanner, E. Thorp, Prof. Cady, and Gilbert Bowles, secretary of the convening committee, etc.

The chairman explained that in the absence from Japan of Mr. E. W. Frazar, chairman of the promoting committee, he had been requested to call the meeting to order, and asked that some one be appointed to preside that evening.

APR 21 1901
R. J. A.

On the motion of the Rev. Dr. Greene, seconded by Prof. Clay McCauley, Mr. Blake was unanimously requested to preside and Mr. Gilbert Bowles was asked to act as secretary of the meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING SPEECH.

The chairman, addressing the meeting, said:

Your excellency, ladies, and gentlemen: The purpose for which this meeting is called requires no special introduction. The promoting committee, which has been at work for several months, has endeavored to communicate with every American citizen resident in Japan and Korea, and the number and character of responses have been so encouraging that they have felt warranted in convening this meeting.

Peace societies have existed in the United States for many years, and they number among their members some of the most prominent men and women in the country. Statesmen, lawyers, clergymen, and educators have recognized that peace was a most essential element in the development and prosperity of the Nation, and it was a patriotic duty of every citizen to work to this end. Our President, notwithstanding that he at one time held the apparently anomalous position of Secretary of War, and even now is urging the fortification of the Panama Canal, is still one of the strongest advocates for peace of which the world can boast. Ever since he assumed the reins of government he has recommended, indorsed, and approved every movement that has had for its object the settlement of international disputes through courts of arbitration. Only recently the Newfoundland fishery question, which for several decades has been a subject of dispute between Great Britain and the United States, has been settled by arbitration to the satisfaction of both and without loss of national honor to either country. The settlement of this particular case will undoubtedly have a most important bearing on arbitration in the future, since, if these two great nations could settle such an important and long-standing dispute in a friendly manner, it is difficult to conceive of any question arising between any two countries which can not be similarly treated, if the parties interested honestly desire a peaceful solution.

Our President is now endeavoring to negotiate a treaty with Great Britain having for its object the settlement of all disputes by arbitration, even those involving national honor, and if he succeeds, as we all hope will be the case, his name will be a household word in America for generations yet to come. Fortunately the President is strongly supported by public opinion on this important subject, since there are thousands upon thousands of prominent men in America who have had personal experience of the horrors of war and who now appreciate the blessings of peace. Among such men is His Excellency Mr. O'Brien, our ambassador to Japan, who honors us with his presence this afternoon. Since his appointment to his present high post, his public utterances on this subject, whether in the United States or in Japan, have been directed toward the removal of difficulties and the clearing up of misunderstandings, and his position has been so frank and so unequivocal as to have earned for him the respect of the Japanese and the admiration of his own countrymen.

As regards the position of Americans in Japan on the subject of peace, it has been difficult up to this time to form an opinion; while our numbers are not great, our places of residence are scattered and our avocations so varied that it has been impossible to obtain any general consensus of opinion. As far as the missionary bodies are concerned, it would be natural to presume that they are peacefully inclined, but as to the business element a different opinion seems to have existed. If newspaper reports are to be credited, the opinion has been held by one high in authority that we entertain feelings of animosity toward Japan and that we have stirred up strife between his country and our own. If this belief does exist, it is certainly most incorrect, and a meeting such as this offers an appropriate opportunity for denying it, which I do with the greatest possible emphasis, and I am sure my remarks will carry the indorsement of all other business men who are present this afternoon.

I would say in conclusion that it is the hope of the committee that a strong organization may be formed, which, acting independently or in cooperation with the Japanese society, may lend its influence toward a better understanding between Japan and America and the preservation of peace, which is so manifestly in the interests of both countries.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The chairman, again rising, said the next business before the meeting was the adoption of the constitution of the proposed society, which reads as follows:

ARTICLE I.—NAME AND LOCATION.

The name of this society shall be The Peace Society of Americans Resident in Japan, and the central office shall be located in Tokyo.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

The object of this society shall be the promotion of international peace and good will.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. Any American citizen resident in Japan, including all outlying possessions, may become a member of this society by making written request and paying the membership fee.

SEC. 2. Any American who has resided in Japan may become a corresponding member upon expressing a willingness to cooperate with the society.

ARTICLE IV.—SCOPE OF WORK.

This society may engage in the following lines of work:

(a) Circulating literature, utilizing the press, and opening public lecture meetings for the purpose of giving facts and creating sentiment supporting the world-wide peace movement.

(b) Carrying on correspondence and exchanging reports with peace societies in America and other lands, and with the International Peace Bureau at Berne, Switzerland.

(c) Cooperating with the Japan Peace Society, the Oriental Peace Society, and kindred organizations in influencing public opinion and carrying on educational peace work.

(d) Investigating and reporting upon special questions.

ARTICLE V.—OFFICERS.

The officers of this society shall be a president, four or more vice presidents, a treasurer, and secretary, who shall be elected annually.

The president, treasurer, and secretary, together with three persons chosen by these officers, shall constitute an executive committee.

ARTICLE VI.—FINANCES.

This society shall be supported by membership fees, which shall be 1 yen per year per regular member, 25 yen for life membership, and by special contributions.

ARTICLE VII.—MEETINGS.

A general meeting shall be held once a year at such a time and place as may be arranged by the executive committee. Special meetings may be arranged for by the executive committee.

ARTICLE VIII.—AMENDMENTS.

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any annual meeting.

Copies of this proposed constitution (continued the chairman) had already been sent to every American citizen in Japan and Korea, as far as the committee were able to trace them. The only alteration the promoting committee suggested was that the name of the society be changed from "The Peace Society of Americans Resident in

Japan" to "The American Peace Society of Japan." The title was a little shorter and a little more euphonious.

The Rev. G. F. Draper moved, and Prof. Terry seconded, that the constitution as submitted, with the change in the name of the society, be adopted.

The Rev. T. Roseberry Good suggested with reference to the second paragraph of Article V that the executive committee be composed of five persons in addition to the president, secretary, and treasurer, instead of three, as proposed. The executive committee would have control of the work and would practically voice the opinions of American citizens in Japan, and for this reason it should be as thoroughly representative as possible.

Mr. Good's suggestion having been accepted by the mover and seconder, the constitution as amended was put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The next business was the election of officers, and for the purpose of expediting matters a committee was appointed to bring forward nominations. This committee comprised the following: Messrs. J. R. Kennedy (chairman), B. C. Howard, H. E. Cole, Dr. Greene, and Mr. S. Isaacs. On the return of the committee, after a very brief absence, the following officers were suggested for the ensuing year: President, Mr. D. H. Blake; vice presidents, Mr. E. W. Frazar, Prof. H. T. Terry, Mr. B. C. Howard, Rev. T. Roseberry Good, and Dr. D. C. Greene; honorable secretary, Mr. Gilbert Bowles; honorable treasurer, Mr. J. R. Geary.

SPEECH BY MR. KENNEDY.

In proposing these officers, Mr. Kennedy, at the request of the promoting committee, explained to the meeting the views of the committee on the work they had undertaken. He said:

We have to-day enlisted ourselves in an army pledged to the cause of the promotion of peace, of international conciliation, and the prevention of useless war. We can not hope that to-morrow the voice of the mischief-maker and the arduous labor of the propagandist will be silenced or will cease, but we may hope that the voice of Americans resident in Japan will to-morrow make itself heard in the homes and felt in the hearts of their fellow countrymen across the Pacific. We may believe that this reinforcement will be welcomed by the already mustered forces throughout the civilized world.

Within the last few years this great movement has grown until its effectiveness has been marked. Within this time I believe war itself, with all its hideous injustices and its necessary inhumanities, has, in fact, been averted because of the indirect influence of the forces opposed to unnecessary war. True, powerful and more powerful armies and navies have played, as they always must play, their part in the prevention of war, but we must not underrate this other great and humane influence.

America has taken, and is taking, the foremost place in this movement. The cynic and the thoughtless may sneer at or babble at the "peace movement," but, sir, this committee of yours asks the membership of this organization to mark well recent developments. Within a few weeks, almost just as the old year was going out and a new and better year waited on the threshold, an American, practical and businesslike, an American who had risen from poverty almost to untold wealth, has financed this war for peace to the amount of ten millions of gold dollars. It is possibly the greatest gift and the greatest endowment that Andrew Carnegie has ever made. Not only that, sir, but we find upon the roll of trustees, who have accepted the responsibility for the proper

expenditure of this huge sum, the names of William H. Taft, the President of the United States of America; Elihu Root, ex-Secretary of State, practical man and one of the greatest statesmen America has ever known. We find others of that class. Are we ashamed to enroll our names alongside of these, or shall we apologize for so doing to those who laugh at scars but never felt a wound?

A great banker of New York, Frank A. Vanderlip, a great thinker, too, said the other day: "There is no excuse for war and the immense expenditure it entails for ironclads and armies; but how to obviate it I do not know; the problem is, I think, the most important Mr. Carnegie has ever undertaken to solve. The only thing I can suggest is that we keep hammering away on the public opinion of the world. Set the best writers and thinkers at work upon it. Money will always buy brains, and public opinion is the greatest force."

The great French economist, Edmund Thêry, figures that the maintenance of Europe's armed peace footing in the last 25 years has cost twenty-nine billions of dollars gold. Mark you, that is the peace footing of Europe. The public debt of European nations in the last 25 years has increased by twenty-four billions of dollars gold. And the people of those countries are paying the toll. Not only this, but the maintenance of this peace footing has withdrawn and excluded from productive labor nearly four millions of men. Why go further? The duty of men and women to-day is plain. Peace we must have. Not peace at the price of honor, not peace by reason of duty shirked, but peace consequent upon the highest reason and the broadest thought. It is a common duty to assist in the emancipation of all nations from the slavery that the menace of war imposes, and from the overhanging pall of such a catastrophe as befell upon the plains of Manchuria but a few years ago. That, I believe, ladies and gentlemen, is the view of the committee on which I have the honor to serve; and I can only hope that under the officers whose names we have placed before you, and with such a membership as has enrolled itself to-night, the work we may do in the cause of this peace movement may be favored and strengthened.

There being no other nominations, the officers as proposed were declared duly elected, amidst applause.

The chairman, on behalf of his colleagues, returned thanks for the honor shown them by the meeting and assured those present that the officers of the society would do their best to promote the movement which had been so happily started that afternoon.

LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED.

The chairman mentioned that a large number of Americans resident in Japan and Korea had already been enrolled as members of the society, and suggested that those present who had not become members should join that afternoon.

In reply to a question, the chairman stated that ladies were eligible for membership.

A large number of ladies and gentlemen were forthwith enrolled as members.

SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR O'BRIEN.

His Excellency Thomas J. O'Brien, United States ambassador, who was invited by the chairman to address the gathering, was greeted with loud applause. In opening the ambassador said a good deal of what he had to say would savor somewhat of repetition of what the chairman had already said, but as that speech contained so much that was good, he thought the audience would be willing to bear with a little repetition. Proceeding, Mr. O'Brien said:

It seemed to me when I first learned of the intention of American citizens in Japan to organize such a society as this that a most excellent work had been undertaken. There is no other source so good, no other source so effective, as witnesses from the scene; and what you, as citizens of the United States resident in Japan for many years, have observed and learned should be accepted at

its face value in the United States, regardless of what might be said by other people who obtain their views on the Continent of Europe. It is quite possible there are many causes prompted by people who are selfish and greedy, causes of which we know little, which go to make up a false public opinion as regards the relations between Japan and the United States. It is easy to startle people by extraordinary statements; it is certainly easy to startle them in the United States. We are a sentimental people, easily excited, with emotions very close to the surface; and between public opinion of a few years ago and the public opinion of to-day there is a considerable, but not, I hope, serious, difference. It is a little difficult to understand from what source this agitation proceeds. But it must run its course, as most things do, and out of it will come the truth and the result we all hope for. It is in connection with disseminating these truths that your organization can be useful, because after all, while the people of the United States are anxious for news, anxious for something startling, at bottom they love the truth, and in the end they will come right side up in respect to this. Let me assure you, Mr. President, ladies, and gentlemen—and I ought to know something about it—that there is no cause under the sun why there should be distrust between the people of these two countries. There are no questions of importance pending and no business being conducted diplomatically which should excite the suspicions or make the slightest trouble as between the two peoples. In the absence of something more startling, and judging, perhaps, civilization by recent past history, it was easy to make our people think that Japan was a bloodthirsty nation; that it wanted territory and wanted war with the United States. I think this idea is being gradually worn out, and that with the advent of peaceful sentiments, and with those sentiments being stimulated, as pointed out by Mr. Kennedy, confidence will be restored and the idea of suspecting our neighbors will be a thing of the past. There is no ground for fear that this cause will not win. Since the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815 nearly 250 international controversies have been submitted to arbitration, and there have been 40 during the past 10 years. We are at the close of the first decade of a new century, and we would be doing badly indeed if, with our boasted civilization, the century should proceed very much further without having accomplished this great purpose. In the beginning of things you know the strongest man was the winner, but by degrees civilization cured that. To-day the civil courts and the officers of the courts are able to give to those who have controversies with their neighbors such remedies and such satisfaction as they are entitled to receive. The nations can do the same, and nations will do the same in the near future. As has been pointed out, one of the most difficult and long standing of controversies between Great Britain and the United States has during the past year been settled successfully. This dispute in the past has involved much feeling, much recrimination, and declaration as to the respective rights of the parties concerned, but happily the question was submitted to men of brains and of thought—men who had no direct interest in the controversy—and the decision seems to have been satisfactory. Both sides to arbitration will not be pleased with the decision reached—one side is very likely to be disappointed—but in the case of nations, as in the case of individuals, one of the controversialists will have to submit, and public opinion of all of the world, having no immediate interest in the particular controversy, will see they do submit. The step from the local to the national and from the national to the international is a very short and a very easy one. It is a significant anomaly in the history of nations that they are willing, with the best of their youth and the flower of their country, to go to battle, suffering death and loss of money, and to think that they have accomplished glorious things. The chances might be about even that the dispute will in the end be settled wrong. It has been so in the past, and I doubt whether the world with all its wars has advanced one iota in its march toward civilization. It is strange with what alacrity, with what activity, and at what expense we try to stop the rage of pestilence and disease in our midst, and yet, except in an indirect way, as it affects individuals, the hundreds of thousands lost in battle are hardly thought of; the combatants die in a glorious cause. Ladies and gentlemen, I deny that a cause which takes human life in that way is a glorious one. The controversies submitted to arbitration will at least have brought to their elucidation the intellects of trained lawyers and men of prominence drawn from all the nations who constitute the court and who have no earthly interest in the outcome. It will be a sad thing, indeed, if this generation shall fail to take advantage of the sentiments now fast accruing and shall fail to accomplish this work of peace.

SPEECH BY REV. T. R. GOOD.

The Rev. T. Roseberry Good, who was next invited by the chairman to address the meeting, was greeted with loud applause. He said:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ambassador, ladies, and gentlemen, it seems to me that this meeting might congratulate itself if for no other reason than because it has been instrumental in calling forth such a straightforward and emphatic speech as that just delivered by our worthy ambassador.

We are accustomed to think that those who are engaged in the Diplomatic Service hardly dare to speak definitely on subjects of great public importance; but in the speech just delivered by our national representative we have listened to statements as strong, as definite, and as hopeful as any that we could hear from any other source. In a book published this winter by Mr. Choate, giving a series of addresses delivered in England, the author says in the preface that when he received his credentials to the Court of St. James the only instruction he received from President McKinley was to do all that he could to advance the interests of both countries by cultivating the most friendly relations between them. It seems to me, my friends, that that is not only a splendid principle for the Diplomatic Service, but it also suggests a working principle that ought to be in the mind of every American citizen living in a foreign country. We pride ourselves on our citizenship, but let us not forget that the privileges of citizenship also carry responsibility; and if that is true in the homeland, it is infinitely more true when, in a strange land, whether we will or not, we are everyone of us acting as representative citizens. At the present time we are witnessing encouraging signs in the advancement of the cause of peace. Reference has already been made to that splendid benefaction of Mr. Andrew Carnegie. The members of the committee appointed to take charge of the fund have indicated that they have very clear and definite ideas as to how to crystallize public opinion and how to make the sentiments a working force for promoting the objects they have in view. They have already suggested that they will endeavor to secure the codification of international law, which in itself would be a great thing toward advancing the peace of the world. At the present time there is no international law. There are international precedents which any country may disregard at its caprice or whenever it seems to its advantage so to do. But the codification of international law will go far toward establishing international justice. The committee are also going to work upon the project of instituting a court of arbitration at The Hague, from which there will be no appeal—a court of arbitration which will be recognized as sovereign in international affairs just as literally as the Supreme Court of the United States is recognized in our civil affairs. The committee are going further than this. They are going to endeavor to promote a scientific study of the circumstances from which wars originate, and especially to study those uneasy places in international relations that furnish a continual possibility and a continual danger of war. These things are all hopeful and promise for the future even greater things in the cause of peace than have been heard of for decades past. It needs little argument to-day to show to the man who really thinks that war has utterly failed in its purpose. We have been told by a previous speaker of the immense cost of the wars fought even during the past few years. We have heard of the millions of men withdrawn from productive industry in order that they might be fed by the sweat of other men's brows; we have heard something of the financial burdens that are piled upon nations, until some of them are almost on the verge of bankruptcy—taxation spread over years and mortgaging the industrial capacities of the people; we have heard of all these things, and yet, after all, the wars that have taken place have demonstrated but one thing, as our ambassador has pointed out, namely, which side possessed the strongest army, and have failed to establish any principle of justice or of righteousness among men. We are living in an age of rapidly changing conditions. Our modern means of intercommunication make us all near neighbors. What happens in Tokyo to-day is known in all the capitals of Europe possibly before midnight; what takes place in one country soon becomes the common property of people in the next country; and to-day, more than ever before, countries are not ruled by kings upon their thrones, they are not ruled by Congresses and Parliaments; in the last analysis, in the

greater part of the civilized world they are ruled by public opinion. After all, our worthy President and the rulers and governments of the world are simply endeavoring to understand in what direction public opinion is moving, and then to crystallize that opinion and to make it effective in the form of laws. To-day we are called upon to do our part in the most important function of helping to create the right kind of public opinion. It will be the business of this peace society to carry on an educational work—to educate the public mind in the ideas of a peaceful solution of national questions and to give expression to the peaceful aspirations of the majority of our citizens. It seems to me that in this country especially, with the many possibilities of misunderstanding that may occur, our function is a tremendously important one and ought to impose upon everyone of us, individually as well as collectively, a deep sense of responsibility for our words, for our actions, and for our living in promoting the interests of our Nation and upholding the honor of our flag. The United States has already entered into the great struggle of international commerce. With the opening of the Panama Canal that commerce will undoubtedly show greater expansion, and with that expansion the causes of possible misunderstanding will inevitably be increased. It is therefore increasingly important that we in this country should be the interpreters to our Japanese friends of the kindly and friendly sentiments entertained by the majority of our people at home, and that we should also be the medium of interpreting to our fellow citizens in the United States a true knowledge of affairs as they actually exist in this country, in order that inflammatory and mischievous statements that are circulated for private and political advantage, perhaps, may be shorn of their dangerous power, and that the cause of peace, of righteousness, and of justice may be advanced. My friends, I congratulate this meeting and the American citizens resident in Japan upon the interest that has been shown in this great question. I believe this meeting gives promise of more useful work than any other that has been organized by us as American citizens within the last few years.

RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY MR. H. E. COLE.

Mr. H. E. Cole rose to submit to the meeting two important resolutions. He said:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ambassador, ladies, and gentlemen, a large number of Americans residing in Japan desire to unite in the great movement devoted to the advancement of peace and good understanding among the nations now active through the civilized world, and to give effect to this desire have assembled on this occasion in the interest of their common purpose. It has come to our knowledge that in sections of the United States rumors have been circulated to the effect that public sentiment in Japan is hostile to the United States and that the Japanese Government entertains sinister purposes of a dangerous character. Many of the persons here assembled have resided in Japan for years, and, having extended acquaintance with people of different classes, are highly qualified to speak of their minds and purposes. Since the rumors in question are based upon misinformation, or, even worse, the hope of selfish advantage, in order to contribute, so far as our influence will extend, to the tranquillity so necessary among neighboring nations, we desire to unite in the following:

“Resolved, That, in our opinion, the people of Japan have, at all times, entertained the most friendly and cordial sentiments toward the Government and people of the United States, and that there never has been, and is not now, any feeling other than one of confidence and gratitude. We believe, upon evidence which can not be doubted, there is not to be found in the Japanese Empire any wish or thought other than to maintain the most friendly and cordial relations with the Republic of the United States, and that any representations to the contrary, wherever emanating and from whatever cause proceeding, are baseless calumnies which, if uncontradicted, can only result in vast material losses to the people of both Governments and in creating an unhappy prejudice between them.

“Resolved, That, through the secretary of this society and through the endeavors of its individual members, the greatest possible publicity be given to the foregoing sentiments.”

Mr. B. C. Howard seconded the motion, which was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

This concluded the business of the meeting, and the chairman, in declaring the meeting at an end, thanked those present for attending in such large numbers.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

[The Japan Times, Jan. 27.]

A new force in what may be paradoxically called the fight for peace will, on Monday next, join the ranks of those who have worked so effectively for the last few years to promote peace and avoid war. A meeting has been called, to be held in the Foreign Board of Trade rooms in Yokohama; and at this meeting what will be named the American Peace Society of Japan will be organized. It is announced that over 100 American residents of this country already have signified their desire to join the organization and there is reason to believe that before long most of the Americans here will be enrolled. A most significant and a most welcome fact is that the American ambassador has signified his willingness to attend the meeting. No man or force of men could have done more to promote the friendly relations of Japan and America than Mr. O'Brien. He has, we believe, moved carefully, wisely, and well as an ambassador. He has impressed the people and officials of this country with his genuine desire to secure good understanding and thwart the forces of evil. We are glad to think that on this occasion the Americans resident in Japan—his fellow countrymen—will give their indorsement to him and his work. There is no new reason why additional evidence should be sought to prove the case against the mischief maker, but there always will be wisdom and reason in a movement that educates and that opens the eyes of ignorance to the evils of senseless misunderstanding. The Americans resident in Japan can go far to silence the voice of ignorance we hear so often and so loudly from the other side of the Pacific. To raise such unanimous voice probably will be regarded as the duty of patriotic Americans in Japan, and that it will be raised we have no doubt, for the American Peace Society can, in this way, best promote the cause of peace. We of Japan have confidence in the wisdom and the sound judgment, the fairness and the open-mindedness of the American people as a whole; hence we have no fear from America. It would come well and truthfully from Americans resident in Japan to tell their fellow countrymen that confidence may be placed by Americans in the common sense and the honesty of Japan and that America has nothing to fear from us. We shall welcome the new peace society and wish it long life and increasing vigor.

[The Japan Gazette, Feb. 3.]

People have not yet ceased to talk of the organization meeting of the American Peace Society of Japan, and in that connection of the notably frank utterance of the American ambassador on the subject of international relations. Mr. Thomas O'Brien at that meeting took occasion, in the interests of peace, emphatically to state:

Let me assure you, Mr. President, ladies, and gentlemen—and I ought to know something about it—that there is no cause under the sun why there

should be distrust between the people of these two countries. There are no questions of importance pending, and no business being conducted diplomatically which should excite the suspicions or make the slightest trouble as between the two peoples.

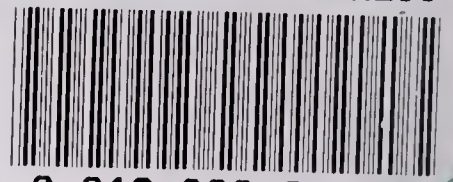
That parenthesis "and I ought to know something about it" was the delicate reminder and stamp of the diplomatic character of the speaker, and lent his words a special interest and value. We were glad to see that the point of this exceptional diplomatic frankness was promptly seized and appreciated by a member of the society present. Rev. Mr. Good, in following Mr. O'Brien, said:

It seems to me that this meeting might congratulate itself if for no other reason than because it has been instrumental in calling forth such a straightforward and emphatic speech as that just delivered by our worthy ambassador. We are accustomed to think that those who are engaged in the diplomatic service hardly dare to speak definitely on subjects of great public importance: but in the speech just delivered by our national representative we have listened to statements as strong, as definite, and as hopeful as any that we could hear from any other source.

This is apt criticism and worthy of remembrance in future cases of serious public misunderstanding. Whether on account of the ambassador's frank utterance or no—we should be inclined to think that it had a most powerful effect—the organization of the American Peace Society proceeded with special enthusiasm, and the membership since the meeting has been steadily rolling up. Reports of the proceedings at this initial meeting, including Mr. O'Brien's speech, will also doubtless be sent far afield, and the valuable lesson it conveys of the possibility of successfully countering intangible international resentments with frank diplomatic publicity, so to speak, may have a very valuable effect.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 019 300 925 6